

The history of New Zealand .



Polynesian period

- Maori are likely to be descendants of immigrants from Taiwan to Melanesia, have migrated to the Society Islands, where part of the immigrants went to New Zealand.



New Zealand - one of the most populated areas later. Eastern Polynesians first settled here in the years 1250-1300 after extensive travels in South Pacific islands. Gradually settlers formed its own culture and language, they were divided into iwi (tribes) and hapū (clans), who collaborated, competed and fought. Some Maori migrated to the archipelago Chatham (they called Rekohu), which turned into the Moriori people with a separate culture. Moriori were almost completely destroyed in the years 1835-1862 as a result of the conquest of Maori iwi of Taranaki [en] and diseases introduced by Europeans. In 1862, in all survived 101 Moriori, the last full-blooded Moriori known - Tommy Solomon [en] - died in 1933.

European period

The first Europeans reached New Zealand, arrived on the ship, along with the Dutch Abel Tasman in 1642. As a result of clashes with the local four members of the team was killed and at least one Maori appeared wounded with buckshot. The next visit of Europeans held only in 1769: the British explorer James Cook mapped the coastline of almost the entire island. Following Cook New Zealand was visited by many European and North American whalers and sealers, as well as merchant ships, me food, metal tools, weapons and other goods in the timber, food, artefacts and water.

These traders brought Maori potato and the musket, which radically changed the agricultural and military way of the people. Potatoes became a reliable source of food, allowing a long military campaign. As a result of inter-tribal Musket Wars, brought together more than 600 battles in the years 1801-1840, were killed from 30 to 40 thousand Maori. Since the beginning of the XIX century in New Zealand began to settle Christian missionaries, to pay the majority of Aboriginal people in their faith. In the XIX century the country's indigenous population was reduced to 40% of pre-exposure level, the main factor that was imported by the disease.



A copy of the
Treaty of
Waitangi



In 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip took the post of governor of the new colony of New Britain, which included at the time, and New Zealand. The British government appointed James Busby, the British Resident in New Zealand in 1832 after receiving a petition from the northern Maori. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in the Bay of Islands February 6, 1840. In response to attempts by the New Zealand company to establish an independent settlement in Wellington and the French settlers to buy land in Akaroa, Hobson proclaimed British sovereignty over the whole of New Zealand May 21, 1840, although at that time not all the copies of the agreement signed Maori. After that, the number of immigrants, especially the British, began to grow.